

# NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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Wednesday, May 7, 1862.

Commons—Marine captures, extracted from Mr. Segar's address in the volume of the Accommodations; deferred local items, &c.

## TAXES ON COTTON.

It is reported that the Finance Committee of the Senate will propose to amend the House tax bill, by striking off the tax upon cotton. If the Senate amends the committee, it will be for the House to say whether it will permit the bill to be amended, in this way, or if it is not. Our advantages in its production over other cottons are so great and so permanent that, with the added cost of a tax high enough to produce a large revenue, we can still produce it cheaply enough to maintain our position in the market of the world. To the extent of our export of the article, the tax, so far as it becomes an element in the price, will be a burden upon others than ourselves. Making will have no right to complain of it, and if they do complain of it, it is not obvious that they have any remedy. Many taxes which nations impose, fall partly upon others with whom they trade. Sometimes taxes are imposed with that express and avowed view, as the export duties upon Brazilian coffee and upon Cuba sugar.

It was said in the House, by way of objection to this tax on cotton, that, although that production in this country had been heretofore so pre-eminently prosperous, it is about to be subjected to a competition which will disable it from bearing any burden whatever. We do not believe that that will be so at all, and it is sufficient to say that it will always be in the power of Congress to repeal the tax on cotton, if it is found by experience to cripple its production. There has been no year during the memory of the present generation when an article of one cent per pound upon cotton would have had that effect. That it will be different hereafter, is, at best, a mere speculation, and no proper basis upon which to frame a tax bill. We must take things as we find them, and if they change hereafter, we always have the power to adapt legislation to new conditions of affairs.

Our advantages in raising cotton consist in soil, climate, natural and artificial facilities of bringing the crop to the seaboard, and our command to the markets in which it is sold for manufacture. The price at which it can be produced depends upon the cost of labor, and so long as it is produced by slave labor, upon the price of negroes. India can compete with cotton at twenty-five cents per pound; but how will it be with cotton at six cents per pound, at which Dixon H. Lewis used to say, "my twenty years ago that the South could produce it, and make money? If it be assumed that the slave system is to be continued, is it not probable that the cotton States can command labor even cheaper than they did twenty years ago? Is not the whole tendency of things towards the concentration of the whole slave labor of the country upon the cotton region, and its consequent capacity to produce cotton cheaper than ever before? If the article could ever bear taxation, when with probably less injury than now?

**THE TAX BILL.**—The Senate Finance Committee has reported some two hundred and sixty amendments to the House tax bill, after having heard the various representatives of delegations from industrial and manufacturing interests taxed. Among these amendments are the following: The tax on refined and mixed liquors is stricken out, and on distilled liquors, increased to twenty cents per gallon, to be collected at the distilleries, but not to operate on the stock on hand previous to the passage of the act. The tax on domestic wine is stricken out. Lager beer and malt liquors are undisturbed. Three per centum is proposed upon gross receipts of railroads, steamboats, etc. Thirty instead of fifty cents per head is put upon cattle, adding five cents on calves; tobacco, twenty cents per pound; sugar, from ten to thirty-five, according to quality. The tax on oil is stricken out. The schedule of taxes upon pianos, watches, carriages, etc., is mostly left out—retaining a tax on billiard tables and dogs. The mode of collection is unchanged.

Mr. McDougall, of the Finance Committee, proposed a substitute, based on the recommendation of the Boston and New York Boards of Trade, embracing a system of stamps.

**SENATOR WILSON ON CONFEDERATION.**—The amendment of Mr. Wilson to Mr. Collamer's bill strikes out all but the first section, substituting instead, in the second section, a provision against the construction of the act that rebels cannot be prosecuted for treason; in the third section, an authorization and regulation upon the President to seize the property of rebel leaders; in the fourth, at the option of the President, authority to include other rebels besides the classes named; in the fifth, a provision for taking the property of absentees who cannot be brought to trial; in the sixth, a regulation upon the Executive to issue a proclamation, fixing upon a day, not more than thirty days distant, when the slaves of all continuing in rebellion shall be declared free; in the seventh, a provision for voluntary colonization; and in the eighth, the empowering of the President to grant pardon and amnesty as he may deem expedient.

**ANOTHER NAVAL CAPTURE.**—The Navy Department has information that the U. S. gunboat Harriet captured, on the 19th ultimo, off Charleston, the schooner *Cliff*, of Charleston, while attempting to run the blockade. She was bound to Nassau, N. P., and was loaded with one hundred barrels of cotton and five thousand of rice. Her papers and log-book were thrown overboard during the chase.

The Boston Transcript says that John F. Moore, the indignant mayor of New Orleans, was formerly in the clothing trade at New York.

Lieutenant Dawson Phoenix has been ordered to report to Commodore Undergrast for ordnance duty at Philadelphia.

# NEW AND VARIOUS AT THE CAPITAL.

The session of the Senate yesterday was the first of every session held in Congress. This is a mistake. The difference upon this subject among Republicans Senators, as developed in the long debate, were so great that nothing remained but to consult the whole subject, all the bills, to a select committee. The Senate, however, did not do this. There is a large majority in the Senate in favor of some compromise bill, there is no doubt. The select committee will probably be able to frame a bill which will conciliate all the friends of the principle of confiscation. It is very evident from the debate yesterday, that many leading Republicans Senators have doubts respecting the constitutionality of some of the bills in the Senate, and under such circumstances, deliberation can do no harm. It is a singular fact that the select committee appointed by the House to consider this subject, is ready to report a stringent bill. It will doubtless wait to confer with the committee to be named by Mr. Foot, the President of the Senate.

**REPUBLICAN'S SENATE.**—Gen. McClellan's latest dispatch was read in the House yesterday at three o'clock, and it created much excitement. The general impression in the House seemed to be that our troops had met with a check. Mr. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, evidently thought that General McClellan's original opinion respecting the numbers of the enemy in the Peninsula were justified by recent events, and he expressed the hope that no more attacks upon General McClellan would be made. It was a noticeable fact that none of the Republican members uttered a word. It is the Democrats in Congress who now criticize our generals and the members of the Cabinet.

**REBEL CRUISE.**—The friends of Gen. McClellan are very bold in their attacks upon Secretary Stanton. Their severe criticisms are to be heard at every hotel and upon every street corner. They denigrate any attacks upon the General, but themselves criticize the Secretary with severity. The New York World gives a good specimen of these attacks. It says: "The rebel army has escaped only because Gen. McClellan's plan was interfered with, and in an essential particular aspect, by the Secretary of War. Gen. McClellan proceeded down the Potomac with the understanding that Gen. McDowell was to follow him with his corps d'armee. It was intended that the operations against Yorktown should be preceded by the striking of Gloucester Point by McDowell. Had this plan been adhered to, retreat would have been impossible. It is the Secretary of War who is responsible for the escape of Johnston's army—a blunder which has defrauded our brave soldiers of the glory of that valiant and vigorous fighting for which Mr. Stanton professes to much admiration."

The New York Commercial Advertiser says of the above, "official statements and revelations will prove that it only speaks the truth." Let these charges go upon record, and when the war is over, we shall learn the truth. It should be remembered that this charge is really against the President, who is responsible for the acts of his Secretary.

**IN THE HOUSE.**—A heavy day's work was done in the House yesterday. The Pacific railroad bill was passed, and three election cases were settled. This is hard work, and looks like an early adjournment. The passage of the railroad bill alone was enough to make the day a memorable one.

**HOW MANY GENERALS?**—Senator Wilson sent an interesting statement to the Clerk's desk yesterday, by which it appears that just two hundred brigadier generals have been appointed by the President. Thirty-three of these have not yet been confirmed. Twenty-two major generals have been nominated, and all have been confirmed. A motion to reconsider was entered in the case of Gen. Shields.

**LEFT WORKING.**—This gallant officer was upon the floor of the Senate and House yesterday, and was the recipient of many attentions from Senators, Representatives and others. It will be some time, we fear, before he will be able to take command of the Monitor again.

**OUR LOSS AT SHILOH.**—The official reports, now complete, make our loss at the battle of Shiloh, in General Grant's army, as follows:

Killed.....1,349  
Wounded.....5,227  
Missing (principally prisoners).....3,870

In General Buell's army, the losses were as follows:

Killed.....625  
Wounded.....1,734  
Missing.....93

Total.....13,066

From the reports made by the burying parties, the rebel loss in killed was fully four thousand.

**PROTECTION TO INDIANS.**—Senator Wilkinson yesterday introduced a bill, which provides for the allotment, at the request of any member of a band or tribe, by the agent or superintendent thereof, of a portion of the lands belonging to the tribe, to any Indian who has adopted the habits of civilized life, for his occupation and enjoyment, in which he shall be protected. It punishes any unauthorized Indian for trespass upon such individual, by withdrawing his share of annuities due him. If the trespasser is a chief, he shall be suspended from the emoluments and benefits of his office for three months, unless the superintendent or agent shall sooner restore him.

**McClellan's DISPATCH IN THE HOUSE.**—While Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, was speaking yesterday, a dispatch from Gen. McClellan was announced. Mr. Dawes took his seat, and the dispatch was read. It announced that the retreating rebels were entrenched in great numbers at Williamsburg, and that while their forces were more numerous than his own, he was determined to go on and fight them with the forces at his command.

The news was received in silence—no cheers—no demonstrations of joy, but an oppressive stillness, which was finally broken by Mr. Wickliffe of Kentucky, who rose and in a malicious tone and manner, said that as there had been much complaint against McClellan, in certain quarters, and by those who desired his removal, he hoped their murmurings would now cease. No response was made to this, and Mr. Dawes resumed his speech.

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# LATE TELEGRAPH.

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Peck to the Fight.

## The Enemy Houted with Great Slaughter.

Brilliant Charge of Hancock's Brigade Spoke Hancock's Force.

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THIRTY LEAVE NO DEAD, 45 WOUNDED, AND NEARLY 200 PRISONERS.

From the Correspondent of the Associated Press—ADVANCE NEAR WILLIAMSBURG, Monday Evening, May 6, 1862.

When my dispatch was sent last evening, the indications were that our troops would occupy Williamsburg without much opposition. The first indications of the enemy's rear guard being reinforced, was the fact of their pressing our lines about eight o'clock in the morning, showing a determination to resist our advance. Reinforcements had arrived during the night to enable our generals to get about on the offensive or defensive. About eight o'clock the enemy opened on our troops, posted on the left, composed of Gen. Hooker's division and other troops of Hestatesman's corps. The action in this vicinity was very heavy at times. The loss in killed and wounded is not known, but supposed to be considerable on both sides. The enemy was repulsed at all points. General Peck's brigade, stationed to the right of General Hooker's, soon after became engaged. Here the firing was very heavy for about two hours, during which they handsomely repulsed the enemy in making his charge.

Our loss here was about thirty killed and seventy-five wounded. A brilliant victory was achieved about five o'clock in the afternoon; Gen. Hancock's brigade, assisted by Kennedy's and Wheeler's batteries. They had been ordered to the right to feel the enemy, and it possible, turn their left wing. Here they were met by Gen. Early's brigade, consisting of the Fifth North Carolina, and Twenty-fourth and Thirty-eighth Virginia regiments, with a squadron of cavalry, who advanced in line of battle. Our troops, who were quickly prepared to receive them, opened a heavy fire upon them, and the enemy advanced steadily to within two hundred yards, when Gen. Hancock ordered a charge with the bayonet, which was executed with the greatest courage. The enemy's lines broke—they became panic-stricken, and fled, leaving their dead and wounded behind.

The rebels left upward of eighty dead and forty wounded. We also took nearly two hundred of their prisoners. A number of their killed and wounded were carried off; among them was the colonel and lieutenant colonel of the Fifth North Carolina regiment. Our loss was not severe. The Twenty-fourth Virginia regiment, together with several other officers. Their dead were buried by our troops, and their wounded cared for. The conduct of General Hancock and his brigade, on this occasion, has excited universal admiration. A standard of honor, belonging to the cavalry, engaged, was captured, and is now on its way to Washington. When the news of Hancock's success became known, a shout went up from tens of thousands of Union throats that made the country resound for miles around.

General Hancock remained during the night in two works of the enemy. General McClellan and staff arrived on the field at five o'clock, and immediately rode to the front, where his presence among the troops was most joyfully hailed. He immediately assumed command in person.

The rain has poured in torrents all day. The troops suffer much from exposure, but some complain. From information received from the prisoners taken, the enemy will make a decisive stand at Williamsburg; reinforcements having been arriving all day, and General J. E. Johnson is in command.

Jeff. Davis was in Richmond at last accounts. The enemy's works are very formidable, and extend across the peninsula, this side of Williamsburg.

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